

Opening, Call to Order, Roll Call, Approval of Agenda

The October 19, 2017 meeting of the State Board of Education/State Board for Vocational Education was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by President Dennis L. Loftus. The following members of the State Board were present: Dr. Dennis Loftus, President; Nina Lou Bunting, Vice President; G. Patrick Heffernan; Hon. Liane M. Sorenson; Barbra Rutt; and Dr. Terry M. Whittaker. Secretary of Education Dr. Susan S. Bunting was present to serve as the Executive Secretary for the State Board, and the Board's Executive Director, Donna Johnson, also was present.

The agenda was approved as presented. A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker and seconded by Mrs. Sorenson to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

The minutes of the Board's regular meeting of September 19, 2017 were approved as presented. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Whittaker and seconded by Mrs. Bunting. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Committee Reports from State Board Members, Update from Executive Director, Update on Literacy Campaign Efforts

Mrs. Nina Lou Bunting reported that she had attended the State Board of Education Agenda Setting meeting, participated in place of Dr. Loftus on the Teacher of the Year selection committee, attended the Community Conversation on School Report Cards under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) at Beacon Middle School, and attended the Teacher of the Year Banquet at Dover Downs.

Dr. Loftus reported that he also attended the Agenda Setting Meeting and the Teacher of the Year Banquet. As State Board President, Dr. Loftus serves on the University of Delaware Board of Trustees. He spent two days in meetings with the Board as they met to revise policies and procedures.

Donna Johnson presented the executive director's update; she included the next two dates for Community Conversation School Report Cards under ESSA (October 23rd and 24th). Mrs. Johnson shared that she and Mrs. Denise Stouffer, Director of the Charter Schools Office, presented the Giving Back Award at this year's Delaware Charter Schools Network Idea Awards ceremony. This Award was given to students or former students of charter schools who have made significant contributions to their community and school. Mrs. Johnson also attended a discussion seminar at the University of Delaware, where former Vice President Biden and Ohio Governor Kasich discussed civility, culture, and the need to be willing to work together to make change happen.

Secretary's Report

Earlier in October, the Governor and Secretary Bunting visited Richey Elementary, to discuss Wilmington University's year-long residency program with representatives from the Ohio Department of Education and State Board of Education, who were interested in learning more about the program.

The Secretary, alongside Amy Bonner from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), David Blowman, and Jon Sheehan, met with a packed room of Early Childhood Council members and daycare providers at the Carvel facility to explain the budget process, allocations for the tiered reimbursement program, and childcare facilities' STARS status. The group believed that they had been misled by the Department of Education (DOE) and OMB regarding the support and growth of the STARS program. The question and answer period was lively but generated a deeper understanding of the budget challenges

and process. More importantly, it provided an opportunity to emphasize the Governor's and DOE's belief in importance of, and dedication to financially supporting early childhood education.

Within the past month, DOE has held a number of evening Community Conversations events throughout the state. Five highlighted the new "report card", which will replace the state, district, and school profiles. In an effort to solicit input from parents and educators in the Delaware Report Card design, The DOE engaged participants in activities involving report card terminology as well as content.

The Department has also held Community Conversations on the draft Anti-Discrimination regulation and model policy at Howard High School, A.G. Waters Middle School, Caesar Rodney High School and Sussex Central.

The Secretary travelled to Springfield, MA with Governor Carney, Jon Sheehan Dorrell Green, and several other representatives from Delaware, to visit three schools in an empowerment zone designed to facilitate student achievement. Increased administrator flexibility with staffing, budgeting, and curricular selection seemed not only to have translated in greater student proficiency at these schools but might also hold promise for schools and students in the city of Wilmington.

A Letter of Intent was signed memorializing the agreement between the Christina School District, the Governor's Office, the Office of Innovation and Improvement, DOE, and the Christina Education Association to collaborate on improving the educational experience of, and outcomes for, students in Christina's lowest performing city schools. Two Community Conversation sessions will be held at Bayard and at Bancroft to share plans and hear ideas from the neighborhood residents.

Additionally, this month DOE held the quarterly Interagency Resource Management Committee meeting during which participants heard a presentation about and subsequently granted approval of the State's Special Education Strategic Plan and viewed a PowerPoint of the Office of Early Learning progress.

Additionally this month the Secretary:

- presented to members of the student advisory council for DelawareCAN during its Sunday, October 1st session
- completed the goal-setting process with six superintendents
- shared pertinent information at the fall superintendents' retreat in Rehoboth
- participated in the P-20 Council meeting
- visited schools in Caesar Rodney, Indian River, and Capital school districts
- attended a Delaware Workforce Development Board meeting
- met with Senator Tom Carper about Delaware's ESSA plan

Presentation of School, District and State Accountability Reports and DSSF Data

Karen Field-Rodgers, Chantel Janiszewski, and Adrian Peoples presented the 2016-17 school, district, and state accountability reports, which use the Delaware School Success Framework (DSSF) and are, shared as part of the Delaware school profile report. This is the last year that DOE will be using the current DSSF framework for these reports. The Department is in the process of transitioning to the new metrics outlined in the state's ESSA Plan. All of these reports can be accessed electronically through the DOE website. The reports show school performance in the categories of Academic Achievement, Growth, On Track to Graduation, and College and Career Preparation. These reports can help all

education stakeholders understand the full spectrum of school performance, can serve as a tool to support continuous improvement, can be used to gauge a need for additional school support resources, and can be used to allocate funds accordingly.

When next year's reports are released, the public will notice that there are new metrics including a measure on chronic absenteeism and one that measures progress toward English language proficiency for English language learners. The new DSSF under ESSA will be effective for the 2017-2018 school year; the new DSSF reports will be released in fall 2018; and new state report cards will be released by December 31, 2018.

AP Data and state/district/school reports from the 2016-17 school year

Michael Watson, DOE Chief Academic Officer, presented Delaware's 2016-17 AP data report. This report showed that there has been an increase in public school AP participation, and noted that the increase is also accompanied by an increase in dual enrollment participation. Many of the AP courses in what are referred to as STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) showed the most significant increases in performance this year. The specific AP classes that students are taking and the data regarding participation and performance can be found in the report, which was provided to the Board in addition to the presentation. This report was also posted on the Board's website for access by members of the public. Mr. Watson discussed the additional supports provided to students taking AP classes as well as professional development for teachers. AP insight is an online tool for teachers and students so they can fine-tune their skills pertaining to their specific classes. There has been an increase of minority students taking AP courses, according to the most recent data. Additionally there were marked improvements in performance by traditionally underserved subgroups on the AP exams, such as the Hispanics and the African Americans. Mr. Watson updated the Board on this year's schedule and activities for the Delaware Goes to College Initiative. He noted that in addition to all of the Delaware higher education institutions waiving their application fee during the month of November for Delaware students, Salisbury University, has also agreed to waive its application fees.

Secretary Only Regulations - for SBE Information

The Secretary of Education proposed to amend 14 DE Admin. Code 290, Approval of Educator Preparation Programs. This proposed amendment will clarify the application process for alternative routes to teacher certification programs. In addition, minor formatting changes were made to comply with the Administrative Code drafting manual. This regulation was made available for public comment October 2, 2017 through November 2, 2017. The secretary will make her decision on the proposed regulation changes after the public comment period has ended.

Professional Standards Board - Update and Regulatory Actions

Mr. Chris Kenton, the Executive Director of the Professional Standards Board, presented one regulation to the State Board for discussion.

Regulation 1515 Hearing Procedures and Rules - For Discussion:

The Professional Standards Board, acting in consultation and cooperation with the Department of Education, is requesting the approval of the State Board of Education to adopt 14 DE Admin. Code 1515 Hearing Procedures and Rules. The regulation concerns the hearing procedures and rules for license denial actions under 14 Del.C. §1217 and license disciplinary actions under 14 Del.C. §1218.

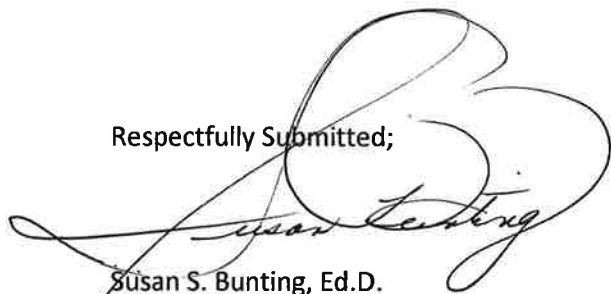
During the discussion of this proposed new regulation, it was brought up that the regulation states in multiple places that persons requesting a hearing must do so by mail or by hand delivering a request to the Executive Director and that neither email nor fax was a means that could be utilized. Members of the Board discussed that this does not seem to be aligned with modern technology nor does it seem to be the most efficient and non-burdensome form of communicating the desire for an appeal. It was suggested that individuals should be allowed to submit appeal requests via email as long as there is a signature from the educator or counsel of the educator requesting the hearing.

It was noted that statute requires in 14 Del. C. §1218(r) "All communications between a license holder and the Department or Standards Board provided for in this section shall be by certified mail, with a return receipt requested." Since this limitation in statute would preclude the PSB from updating the regulation to include email or other forms of communication, the State Board voted to send formal comment to the Professional Standards Board asking members to consider seeking a change to this statute provision by the legislature. The Board voted to direct its Executive Director to submit formal public comment to the PSB regarding such comments, to work with the PSB's Executive Director in developing a proposal for such a change in statute, and to ask for support for sponsorship and passage from members of the General Assembly. The motion was made by Mr. Heffernan, seconded by Mrs. Sorenson, and passed unanimously by voice vote.

This regulation may be submitted to the Board for final action next month.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sorenson and carried unanimously by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan S. Bunting". The signature is written over the typed name and title.

Susan S. Bunting, Ed.D.
Executive Secretary and
Secretary of Education